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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to discover the effect of the 45-15 pilot program on youth-oriented community services in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Questionnaires, telephone interviews, mail, and personal interviews were used to collect data from agencies such as parks and recreation, libraries, Little League, churches, scouting groups, music and dance studios, and the YMCA and YWCA. It was concluded that the 45-15 program does affect the youth agencies with the single exception of the YMCA and YWCA. Each of the community agencies has modified its program in some way to meet the new needs resulting from the 45-15 program. Although program adjustments have been made to accommodate problems caused by 45-15, few provisions have been made for organized activities or supervised playground facilities for children on the vacation cycle. (Author/DW)

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THE EFFECT OF THE 45-15 PILOT PROGRAM ON COMMUNITY SERVICES IN VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA

May 6, 1974

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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Background of Study

This study was conducted under the auspices of the Virginia Beach Public Schools Office of Research and Old Dominion University, School of Education Office of Field Services. This investigation was one of several studies that attempted to identify the impact of 45-15 on various areas of school-community concern regarding the 45-15 pilot program.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study was to discover the effect of the 45-15 pilot program on youth oriented community services in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The study was conducted in the school attendance areas involved with the 45-15 program from January through May of 1974. The community agencies surveyed operated or were located in or near the 45-15 attendance area. Nine agencies were surveyed including: (a) Virginia Beach Department of Parks and Recreation, (b) the children's coordinator of the Library Department, (c) Plaza Little League, (d) area churches, (e) music and dance studios, (f) riding stables, (g) the YMCA and YWCA, (h) the Campfire Girls, and (i) scouting groups.

RESEARCH PROCEDURES

The data was collected by employing survey research techniques including a questionnaire, telephone interviews, mail, and personal interviews. In each instance the interviews were directed toward gathering pertinent information from community agencies through those individuals who come in direct contact with the children on the 45-15 schedule.

The initial interviews were with the principals and/or assistant principals of the 45-15 schools. The purpose of those interviews was to determine as accurately as possible which community agencies and individuals representing them were conducting programs involving children in the 45-15 area.

After the visitation to these schools a directory of community agencies and representative individuals was compiled for the collection of data.[1] Next the questionnaire was finalized and prepared for mailing.

The completed questionnaire sampled five areas of concern: (a) type of program, (b) amount of time involved for participation, (c) the approximate number of children involved in the program, (d) student attendance patterns, and (e) the effect of 45-15 on the program.[2]

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[1]See Directory, Appendix A, pp. 14-17.

[2]See Questionnaire, Appendix B, pp. 18-19.

Department of Parks and Recreation

The Virginia Beach Department of Parks and Recreation provides a year round supervised playground for children at various elementary schools in Virginia Beach. The regular program begins in September and runs until June from 3:30 till 5:30, Monday through Friday. The summer program starts in late June and runs until mid-August from 9:00 till 4:30, Monday through Friday.

The 45-15 schedule has affected the summer recreation programs held at 45-15 schools. The schools are in session during the time that recreation programs would need the facilities in order to maintain the program, so other arrangements had to be made. The playground programs have been moved from the 45-15 schools to schools on the regular schedule, and special after school programs are being worked out for the children in the 45-15 schools.

Because of the geographic proximity of Brookwood Elementary and Plaza Elementary a unique arrangement was made for the summer playground program. Brookwood is on a regular schedule while Plaza is on the 45-15 schedule. The 9:00 - 4:30 program at Brookwood is going to be extended till 6:30 Monday through Friday to accomodate children in school on the 45-15 schedule.

The Department of Parks and Recreation will operate the recreation programs at all the 45-15 schools during the

period that they will be shut down for maintenance which is July 4th through July 21st.

Department of Parks and Recreation
Sports Program

Children living in the 45-15 attendance areas can elect to participate in a variety of sports programs including: volleyball, baseball, softball, football, and basketball. All of the programs have been operational for a year or more. To date 45-15 has not created a need to make major modifications in any of the programs because of time or cycle schedules.

All games and practice sessions are scheduled for after school hours or on Saturdays. Those time frames eliminate possible conflicts with the 45-15 schedule.

Some concern about homework, the length of practice sessions, and school attendance on the following day were identified as possible problems but not particularly unique with the 45-15 schools. Coaches mentioned that children on the 15 day vacation cycle can practice and may build a competitive edge over children who are on the 45 day school cycle, but they also said that the edge evens out over the long run.

Generally, all of the sports programs have had increased participation to the point where additional facilities had to be found. Recreation coordinators and school principals reported that there have been no problems accomodating the expanded program in the 45-15 schools.

The number of children participating in recreation programs has increased more in total numbers in the 45-15 schools than in the schools on regular schedules. The coaches sampled believed that the increased participation is due to the day to day communication between stud .ts facilitated by 45-15.

The Athletic Office of Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation has made arrangement. to modify registration and drafting practices to accomodate those children who cannot meet the regular schedule for registration and draft. These children can now register and receive team assignments in absentia.

The Plaza Little League has started the 1974 season with no problems connected with the 45-15 schedule. Participation and attendance does not seem to have been affected by the 45-15 schedule and to date no negative feedback has been voiced. However, several team mothers expressed a concern over the length of practice sessions, homework, and school the next day. As with the community recreation program, this concern is not unique to the 45-15 program, but these children could be affected throughout the entire season while children on regular schedules would have a month or more with no conflict of time between school and sports since they would be on their summer vacation.

SUMMARY

1. Schedules had to be adjusted for supervised playground activities.

2. The 45-15 schools will continue to have supervised playground during the summer maintenance period.

3. After school supervised playground will continue much as it has in the past.

4. Sports programs are getting increased participation from children in the 45-15 schools.

5. Adjustments in team registration and drafting procedures have been made to accomodate 45-15 children.

6. The Department of Parks and Recreation and the Plaza Little League have made adjustments to accomodate children on the 45-15 schedule.

7. Schools on the 45-15 schedule have been able to cooperate with the expanded community recreation programs.

RELIGIOUS PROGRAMS

Churches located within or in close proximity to the 45-15 attendance areas have been more affected by the pilot program than those churches outside the attendance area. It appears that, when possible, parents and children living within the 45-15 area attend churches in or near the area. The clergymen in and close to 45-15 areas reported that from 50% to 90% of their youth attend 45-15 schools.

The farther from the 45-15 geographic area the lesser the impact the program had on church activities. The lesser impact is probably due to the fact that people usually attend church closest to their homes. The churches that have few children on 45-15 have not seen a need to adjust their programs at this time.

The churches in and near the 45-15 attendance area sponsor a variety of youth oriented programs including: choir, religious study, youth fellowships, scouting and karate.

Summer religious study programs sponsored by the churches in and near the 45-15 attendance areas have been seriously affected by the school schedule. The religious study programs (Vacation Bible School) have traditionally been held during the day sometime during the summer. That arrangement eliminates the 45-15 children from participation in the program. The degree of impact is brought into focus by the fact that from 50% to 90% of youth in area churches attend 45-15 schools. Currently, three churchs whose summer programs are likely to be most seriously affected by 45-15 have revised their religious study schedules to accomodate children on the 45-15. Bow Creek Presbyterian, Plaza Trail Methodist, and St. Francis Episcopal Churches are forming a mutual Bible study program to be held in three seperate sessions during June, another in July and another in August. Princess Anne Plaza Baptist has no plans for Vacation Bible School because of 45-15.

Other church sponsored activities are held during times that are not affected by school attendance times.

Generally, chuch attendance and participation has increased during the past year but the increase is most likely due to factors other than 45-15. The clergymen with a majority of families having children on 45-15 have noticed a tendency toward a leveling off of the summer drop in attendance which may be connected with 45-15.

Summary of Religious Programs

1. 45-15 has seriously affected summer religious study programs.

2. Churches most affected have revised summer programs to accomodate the 45-15 youth or have eliminated them.

3. The further from the 45-15 geographic area the less impact it has on religious programs. In the more distant areas youth must adjust to church programs rather than church programs adjusting to youth.

4. With year round school the peaks and troughs of church attendance appear to be leveling off.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

The Windsor Woods Branch of the Public Library presently offers several programs for the children in the area which includes a majority of the 45-15 children. Story hours are held three times a week in the morning and afternoon for

children from the ages of three to five. There is also a movie and activity hour each Thursday and Friday at 10:00 and 11:00. This year the library is offering a story, activity, or crafts program each Thursday at 3:30 for children in grades K-3. The time frame is flexible and can be adjusted if demand warrants it. The program currently can be utilized by children on the 45 day school or the .. day vacation cycle.

The summer reading program which runs from June through August will probably be modified because of the large number of children on 45-15. The eventual modification will likely include a year round reading program.

45-15 has had an impact on the youth program at the Woods Branch Library. Children's book circulation has increased and children are using the facility throughout the day and evenings rather than just late afternoons and evenings as in the past.

Summary of Library Program

1. 45-15 has affected library programs. New and adjusted programs have been instituted to accomodate the program.

2. The library program now has offerings during the day as well as afternoons.

3. The summer reading program may become a year round program to further accomodate the 45-15 schedule.

4. Library utilization has increased. A large portion of that increase is due to 45-15.

SCOUTING PROGRAMS

Approximately 470-525 children attending 45-15 schools are involved with Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Brownies, Bluebirds, or Girl Scouts. Until 1973-74 the scouting program was primarily seasonal from September through June with only a few group activites scheduled for June, July, and August. The various programs usually involve 1-2 hours after school one day per week with periodic campouts, occasional fieldtrips, and summer camp. During this past year each of the 45-15 schools has provided space for meetings and/or programs.

45-15 has affected the scouting program. The majority of those responding to the survey indicated that there has been a definite drop in attendance at scouting activities during cycle breaks. 45-15 has posed problems with the operation of the summer camping program since a large block of children will be attending school. With children in school during the day, fieldtrips are out of the question for all children except those on the 15 day off cycle or unless they are scheduled for weekends. Another problem traceable to 45-15 relates to the composition of the scouting groups. Some groups are made up of members on 45-15 who are on different cycles while other members in the same group are on the regular school calendar.

The scouting groups have moved to adjust their programs to accomodate children on 45-15. They are attempting to arrange subgroups with children on the same schedules, to

plan for a year long scouting program, and to arrange special outings for weekends or cycle breaks. For this coming summer the camping program is being modified to accomodate the children on each of the 15 day off cycles.

Several program directors indicated that children on the 15 day off cycle appear more enthusiastic about participation than those on the 45 day school cycle.

Summary of Scouting

1. 45-15 has affected scouting programs.

2. Attendance fluctuates downward during the 15 day off cycle.

3. Fieldtrips and campouts are difficult to coordinate with children in different cycles or on the regular school program.

4. Scouting groups are attempting to organize sub-groups composed on the basis of cycles.

5. Fieldtrips and campouts are arranged to take place during weekends.

6. Scouting in the 45-15 areas is transforming into a year round program rather than a seasonal one.

7. Summer camps are offered with sufficient frequency that no child on 45-15 should have difficulty attending.

YMCA-YWCA

The YMCA and the YWCA regularly conduct programs that involve children in the 45-15 schools. However, since only a few of the total number of children in "Y" programs are from 45-15 schools their programs have felt few effects.

The "Y" has arranged to conduct their swimming programs on a schedule that permits children to participate on their 15 day off cycles. "Y" summercamp registration for June through August sessions is currently underway and representatives do not anticipate any difficulty for children on 45-15 to attend the two week sessions should they choose to do so.

Summary of YMCA-YWCA

1. 45-15 has not affected the operation of the "Y" programs.

2. The "Y" has adjusted their swimming programs to accomodate children on 15 day off cycles.

3. 45-15 children can participate in the summer camp without any adjustment to the "Y" programs.

YOUTH ORIENTED BUSINESS

Nine youth oriented businesses were surveyed during the process of the study including: dance, baton, music and riding schools. All reported that 45-15 did not affect their programs as they are currently operated. They also indicated that should a need by felt, their programs would be adjusted to accomodate that need.

Summary of Youth Oriented Business

1. 45-15 does not affect the operation of youth oriented business in the pilot area.

2. In the event of a need, the businesses indicated a willingness to modify their programs.

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

The 45-15 pilot program has affected the youth oriented community agencies with only one exception. Each of the community agencies has modified its program in some way to meet the new needs brought about as a result of 45-15.

Although program adjustments have been made to accomodate problems caused by 45-15, few provisions have been made in the way of organized activities or supervised playground facilities for children on the 15 day off cycle. It would seem then that there is still a need for facilities to be made available to children on their 15 day vacation.

APPENDIX A

GENERAL DIRECTORY

Tidewater Council BSA
Mr. Charles Glanville
Phone: 420-2480

Tidewater Council for Campfire Girls
Mr. Ralph Crawley
Phone: 340-4498

Girl Scouts of Greater Tidewater
Mrs. Edward W. Stephens
Phone: 623-1742

Valerie Ashenfelter 4016 West Colonial Parkway Virginia Beach	340-6045	Scout Troop 316
Mrs. Leroy Littlejohn 205 Paladin Dr. Virginia Bch.	486-5309	Brownie Troop 545
Richard Kephart 3800 Brentwood Crescent Va. Bch.	340-9036	BSA Troop 434
Judith Taylor 3752 Historyland Dr. Va. Bch.	340-2794	Brownie Troop 125
Mrs. Sam Alonge 3928 Brentwood Crescent	486-7786	Bluebirds of Campfire Girls
William B. Tarvin 3600 Algonquin Ct. Va. Bch.	340-8564	Cub Pack 407
Walter N. Hanbury 4700 Recreation Dr. Va. Bch.	497-4884	Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Lavsis Dolloff 3725 Forest Glen Rd.	486-5136	Brownies
Shirley A. Nolte 3702 Pine Grove La.	486-6332	Girl Scouts
Joyce Harrison 3713 Pine Grove La.	340-4722	Girl Scouts

Mr. S. Beasley	427-4611	4-H Offices
Sandra Penrose 3944 Old Forge	340-3419	Cub Den
Mr. H. Andrew Marks	623-0681	Boy's Club
Mrs. Lee Philips 441 Crosset	340-6024	Cub Scouts
Mrs. George Byary 3016 Old Town Lane	427-1561	Cub Scouts
Mrs. Rebecca Powell 3440 Silina Dr.	340-2532	Brownies
Mrs. Dean Dallman 724 Forest Trail	486-4563	Cub Scouts
Muriel Polfus 604 S. Pine Grove Rd.	486-6452	Cub Scouts
Tess Ross 3832 Charter Oaks Rd.	486-4997	Cub Scouts
Marsha Schwieder 3804 Liberty Ridge Rd.	340-0713	Cub Scouts
Katherine Connelly 3053 Bosco Ct.	427-2587	Cub Scouts
Tommie Rae Sheffield 3032 Ash Lawn	340-3332	Cub Scouts
Audrey Stoll 217 Palace Green	486-4441	Cub Scouts
Joann Ritz 401 Piney Ridge Ct.	486-1303	Den Leader Coach
Joan Daywalt 3960 Old Forge Rd.	486-2560	Cub Scouts
Larry Lambertson 3625 Teakwood Dr.	486-3968	Webelows
Bob Connelly 3053 Bosco Ct.	427-2587	Webelows

Churchs:

Union Baptist Church (Kempsville) Rev. S. L. Scott, Jr.	497-0287	Windsor Oaks
St. Francis Episcopal Clayton E. Crigges 509 Rosemont Rd.	340-6884	Windsor Woods
Bow Creek Presbyterian Sefton Strickland 315 Rosemont Rd.	340-5306	Windsor Woods
Princess Anne Plaza Baptist Melvin J. Hughes 245 Rosemont Rd.	340-1282	Windsor Woods
St. Nicholas Catholic Rev. Carl Naro 644 Little Neck Rd.	340-7231	King's Grant
Emmanuel Lutheran Lynn Shores Dr.	340-3866	
Princess Anne Plaza Methodist Rev. William Gardner	340-5775	

Dance:

Academy of Va. Bch. Ballet 1120 First Colonial Rd.	481-5310
Brown Shirley Darden Baton and Dance Studio 225 London Bridge Rd.	340-8056
Va. Bch. Conservatory of Arts 222 S. Great Neck Rd. at London Bridge	
Jean Snead	340-9785
Executive Adm.	428-9039
Fields Dance Studio 469 S. Lynnhaven Rd.	340-8517

Camps:

AESOP Schools 98 Harris Rd.	485-2727

Triple R. Ranch (year round)
3513 Bunch Walnuts Rd. 421-2287

Music:

Langrall Hobart Piano School
1716 Independence Blvd. 464-4934

Riding:

Princess Anne Stables 427-2858
1067 London Bridge Rd.

Great Neck Stables 481-3131
1950 Thomas Bishop Ln.

YWCA 340-3131
Va. Bch. Branch
Princess Theater

Camp Owaissa 464-2066
3121 Shore Dr.

City of Virginia Beach:

Windsor Woods Branch Library
Children's Coordinator 340-1043
3612 S. Plaza Trail

Va. Bch. Parks & Rec.
Activities Center 428-7069
1707 Arctic Ave.

Athletic Div. 497-5448
233 Witchduck Rd.

Mr. Charles Keeder 486-3065
Plaza Little League

Mr. Jim Wittenburg 486-2840
Coach

Louise Tate 340-0170
3717 Gladstone Dr.
Little League Team Mother

APPENDIX B

Dr. Robert H. MacDonald
Assistant Professor
168-5 Education Building
Old Dominion University
Norfolk, Virginia 23508
489-8000, Ext 396

THE IMPACT OF 45-15 ON YOUTH ORIENTED
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Name: _____

Program: _____

Directions: Respond to the statements that follow by circling the word or statement that best describes your program. The blank space after each statement is to be used by you to supply additional information on any one item.

Example: Do you live in: (1) a tree, (2) trailer, (3) apartment?

Comment: I live in a condominium.

By circling the third response you would have indicated that you live in an apartment. The additional comment indicates that your apartment is a condominium.

1. Is your program: (1) seasonal, (2) year round, (3) other?
   Additional comment:

2. How many days per week are children involved with your program? 1 2 3 4 5 more than 5
   Additional comment:

3. On which day or days do you meet? Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday
   Additional Comment:

4. What is the approximate length of each session that you have with the children? 1-2 hr. 3-4 hr. more that 4 hr.
   Additional comment:

5. Does your program usually require a time committment from the children for study or training beyond your regular meeting time? Yes No
If yes, approximately how much time?
Additional comment:

6. How many children between ages 5 and 12 (kindergarten-7th grade) are currently in your program? 1-5, 6-10, 11-15, more than 15
Additional comment:

7. Have you noticed any fluctuations--increase or decrease--in attendance at your regular sessions? Yes No
Additional comments:

8. Are the periodic abscences connected to the 45-15 attendance schedule? Yes No
Additional comments:

9. How many of the children in your program attend one of the 45-15 schools (Holland, Plaza, Windsor Oaks, Windsor Woods)? 1-5, 6-10, 11-15, more than 15
Additional comments:

10. Has the 45-15 schedule created any opportunities or demands for modification in your program? Yes No If you responded yes, please comment on the modifications.

11. Has the 45-15 schedule affected the operation of your program? Yes No
If you responded yes, in what way or ways?

Your participation in this project is appreciated. Return this completed questionnaire in the enclosed, stamped, addressed envelope to:

Dr. Robert H. MacDonald
168-5 Education Building
Old Dominion University
Norfolk, Virginia 23508

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

Norfolk, Virginia 23508 • 489-8000

February 8, 1974

I am currently conducting a study for the Virginia Beach Public Schools on the impact of 45-15 (year round school) on youth oriented community programs. Because of your position and function in your program, I believe you could help supply valuable information for the study. Enclosed you will find the questionnaire that is being used to gather the information and a stamped, addressed envelope.

The total number of people sampled in this survey is quite small. It is important for the success of the study that returns reach as near to 100% as possible. Please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire items and return it. Your response is needed!

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert H. MacDonald
Assistant Professor
168-5 Education Building
Old Dominion University
Norfolk, Virginia 23508
489-8000, Ext.

RHM/jm
Enc.

Hampton Boulevard Norfolk, Virginia 23508 Telephone 703-489-8000